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to the public service than the provincial officials, among whom were a few able men. Functions were needlessly duplicated, unless there was some virtue in a system of checks. While salaries were not large, fees were exorbitant. Treasurers, like John Robinson, were in the habit of loaning government funds in their keeping and appropriating the profits. A receiver-general in the eighteenth century served on an average about fourteen years and, with a salary of £800 plus fees, the position must have been lucrative. Some offices were purchasable, *e.g.*, inspectorships of tobacco. The postal system was regarded as a means of obtaining revenue; rates were excessive and much mail traveled privately to evade postal "duties." The influence of great English merchants on appointments to service in Virginia and on the management of finances is touched upon. The part they played as "bankers" for colonial officials and planters in the credit operations of the period deserves the attention of historians of the colonies. In this connection Dr. Flippin points out the influence of Micajah Perry and Company in the sixteenth century and of J. and C. Hanbury and the African Company in the eighteenth. Companies of such standing secured limitations of the issue of paper money and prompt repeals of colonial acts that discriminated in favor of Virginian owned ships.

The study is quite free from errors of fact or judgment. However, the statement (p. 67) that British merchants were influential in having the Townshend duties passed is supported only by an inference from a letter of Botetourt. The unjust estimate of Virginia's contribution to the French War, which is attributed to Mr. Beer (p. 77), is simply Mr. Beer's paraphrase of a letter of Loudoun (*British Colonial Policy 1754-1756*, pp. 58-59). It is stated (pp. vii, 83) that discontent in the colony usually can be traced to interference with its economic and financial affairs. But too little attention is paid, even after 1760, to just what this interference was and how it affected Virginia. Taxation itself, as distinct from "financial administration," is too briefly treated (pp. 9-21) in a work of this character. However, the study is offered only as a forerunner of a larger treatise on Royal Government in Virginia.

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The Canadian Commonwealth. By AGNES C. LAUT. Problems of the Nations, edited by PAUL LELAND HAWORTH. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1915. Pp. 343. \$1.50.)

The first part of this book is a description and analysis of the growth of a feeling of national consciousness in Canada. Then follows a discussion of various problems which are matters of moment in the Dominion today. The immigration question is considered and the influx of Americans and English. More space is devoted to the immigrants from eastern Europe, from India, and the Orient. Canada has succeeded for the time in excluding the Hindus and in limiting the number of arrivals from China and Japan, but in spite of this it is still a question what the outcome will be and whether the assimilation of eastern Europeans is possible or probable.

The closing chapters are devoted to various industrial and transportation problems, a description of the form of government, the question of defense, and an account of the great north land. Canadians, and particularly western Canadians, do not seem to realize the importance of the Panama Canal. They are much more interested in the Hudson Bay route and have little doubt as to its success. Miss Laut does not think that there is a labor problem in Canada, partly because opportunities for promotion are so numerous that the working man is not in the hopeless position of his fellow-worker in other and older countries and partly because a substantial though relatively diminishing proportion of the population is composed of farmers who own their land.

The book treats of things as they ought to be rather than as they are and Miss Laut looks at her subject through the rosy spectacles of the Western real estate dealer or the typical politician. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that the average Canadian sees things as she sees them and is equally confident that all is well. For such people valuable antidotes to the unreasoning optimism of this volume may be found in Preston's *Life and Times of Lord Strathcona* and Myers' *History of Canadian Wealth*.

To give a few illustrations of what I have in mind: Miss Laut has an explanation of "Why Big Business has never dominated government in Canada"; whereas it would be difficult to find a country whose government is more subservient to the manufacturers, the banks, and the transportation companies. Again, "They [Canadians] regard government as a grave and sacred function, not as a grab bag for spoils." And this from one who ought to know how in Canada "industry leans on the government," as Edward Porritt has it. Does she know anything about the Canadian Department of Public Works and its unsavory record? And yet again, "There has been no weak-kneed mob bellowing

for pap from the breasts of a state treasury." This sentence in itself is typical of the book both as to fact and style. As to fact, I need mention only the activities of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Northern Railway as instances to the contrary.

So also, "During the last ten years she [Canada] has drawn . . . almost two million Americans." To substantiate this statement, mention is made of a census of 1914, whatever that may mean. The statement is ridiculous and Canadians should have learned from the disappointing returns of the census of 1911 that our immigration figures, as a basis for estimating an increase in population, are thoroughly unreliable. We learn also that "Canada can build ships as cheaply as any country in the world." Comment is unnecessary. There is found throughout the book much unreasoning and futile comparison of areas in Canada with areas of similar size in Europe, with little or no recognition of the fact that very substantial parts of Canada are uninhabited and uninhabitable.

A very sane and moderate account of the natural resources of Canada has recently been written by Dr. F. D. Adams for the Conservation Commission. This and the yearly reports of the commission are greatly to be preferred to such publications as *The Canadian Commonwealth*.

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An Introduction to the Economic History of England. I. The Middle Ages. By E. LIPSON. (London: A. & C. Black, Ltd. 1915. Pp. viii, 552. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Lipson has produced a work of exceptional importance for the teacher and student of English economic history, one which in many of its parts will have to be taken account of also by the specialist in the field. The volume before us covers the period from earliest times to the reign of Elizabeth and treats of the following subjects: the origin of the manor, the manor and the open field system, the break-up of the manor, the agrarian revolution, the growth of towns, fairs and markets, the guild merchant, craft guilds, the woollen industry, foreign trade, and revenue and exchequer. It closes with an appendix of authorities and a fairly good index. Though the first chapter, on the origin of the manor, and the last, on revenue and the exchequer, are mainly compilations, the re-